



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

MILITARY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 Saint Claude Ave.
JACKSON BARRACKS
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
(504) 278-8357
Fax (504) 278-8210

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Hagel:

This letter requests the Department of Defense provide support to the State of Louisiana in disposing of explosive material formerly owned by Explo Systems, Inc. (Explo) under the provisions of Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA).

The Military Department, State of Louisiana, (LMD) acquired Camp Minden by quitclaim deed from the U.S. Army in December 2004 with numerous usage restrictions. As a result of the transfer with the Army, LMD inherited Explo as a tenant.

The federal Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Louisiana released the explosive material to the State in September 2013. This explosive material is currently stored at Camp Minden, Louisiana. M6 propellant is a hazardous material derived from the demilitarization of the M119A2 Propelling Charge. The excess propellant was produced by Explo under the terms and conditions of its contract with DoD (Contract no. W52P1J-10-C-0025). During the contract term, Explo illegally and improperly stored over 10 million pounds of M6 propellant on Camp Minden. Explo's illegal activities were discovered by the Louisiana State Police after an explosion of a magazine leased to Explo in October 2012. Explo and its principals have been indicted by a Louisiana Grand Jury for their actions. Over 18 million pounds of M6 propellant and other explosives remain in 97 of LMD's magazines on Camp Minden to this day.

Explo failed to maintain a stability monitoring program and accountability for the repackaged recyclable M6. The propellant's stability is now unknown. The loss of propellant stability may result in an auto-ignition and possible detonation of propellant in storage. The Army has provided a recommended stability monitoring program. Upon review, we determined that implementation of the plan will result in a considerable risk to personnel performing this activity. The plan requires pulling samples from every lot of M6 propellant, requiring removal of all pallets from many storage igloos. This double handling is unsafe. The inability to implement a stability monitoring plan further exacerbates the urgency of the situation.

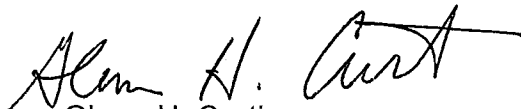
I acknowledge that a DSCA request requires reimbursement from the State of Louisiana; however, the Secretary of Defense has authority to waive reimbursement under certain conditions. I request waiver of the requirement for reimbursement for the following reasons:

- a. LMD does not have personnel with the ability to conduct the industrial-level demilitarization required to safely dispose of this material, nor does it have personnel capable of overseeing the safety of contractor operations for demilitarization.
- b. LMD does not have funding (estimated at approximately \$30 million) in its current state or federal appropriations for this purpose.
- c. DSCA support can be provided in the normal course of military operations typically provided by the Army's Mobile Ammunition Renovation Inspection and Demil Team.
- d. DSCA support will eliminate the current emergency and allow military training to resume. Currently, both active and reserve component ranges and training areas are not available.

Camp Minden is under a State of Emergency declared by Governor Bobby Jindal. I have attached a copy of the Emergency Declaration for your review. The State of Louisiana requests DoD support in disposing of the explosive material in an effort to mitigate the hazardous situation at Camp Minden.

In closing, the State of Louisiana needs your assistance to end this emergency situation created by EXPLO Systems, Inc. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn H. Curtis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Glenn H. Curtis
Major General, LA National Guard
The Adjutant General

Enclosure